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20. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having greater than 91% sequence identity to the human patched-2 polypeptide of FIG. 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) of U. S. Patent 6,348,575 as measured by BLAST-2 set to the default parameters, and which binds to hedgehog.
21. The polypeptide of claim 20 wherein the sequence identity is greater than 92%.
22. The polypeptide of claim 20 wherein the sequence identity is greater than 93%.
23. The polypeptide of claim 20 wherein the sequence identity is greater than 95%.
24. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having greater than 91% sequence identity to the human patched-2 polypeptide of FIG. 1 (SEQ ID NO:2) of U. S. Patent 6,348,575 as measured by BLAST-2 set to the default parameters, and which binds to Smoothed.
25. The polypeptide of claim 20 wherein the sequence identity is greater than 92%.
26. The polypeptide of claim 20 wherein the sequence identity is greater than 93%.
27. The polypeptide of claim 20 wherein the sequence identity is greater than 95%.

28. A chimeric molecule comprising the polypeptide of any one of claims 18, 19, 20 or 24 fused to a heterologous amino acid sequence.

29. The chimeric molecule of claim 28 wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is an epitope tag sequence.

30. The chimeric molecule of claim 29 wherein said heterologous amino acid sequence is a constant region of an immunoglobulin.

31. The polypeptide of claim 24 wherein the sequence identity is greater than 92%.

32. The polypeptide of claim 24 wherein the sequence identity is greater than 93%.

33. The polypeptide of claim 24 wherein the sequence identity is greater than 95%.

34. Isolated native sequence human patched-2 polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

35. Isolated native sequence human patched-2 polypeptide comprising at least 1040 amino acids of SEQ ID NO:1.

36. Isolated native sequence human patched-2 polypeptide comprising amino acid residues 1 to 1142 of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. Isolated native sequence human patched-2 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

38. Isolated native sequence human patched-2 polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

BB' 39. Isolated native sequence human patched-2 polypeptide comprising at least a substantial part of the amino acid sequence submitted to GenBank under protein id no AAD17260.1.

40. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having greater than 91% identity to the human patched-2 polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:1.

41. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence having greater than 91% identity to 1040 amino acid residues of SEQ ID NO:1.

42. The isolated polypeptide according to any one of claims 40 or 41, wherein said identity is measured by the BLAST algorithm as described in Karlin and Altschul, PNAS USA, 90:5873-5877 (1993).

43. A chimeric molecule comprising the polypeptide of any one of claims 34-41 fused to enzyme or protein.--

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